

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

MARTEL ARTIS,

Plaintiff

Case No. 2:24-cv-02186-APG-DJA

ORDER

v.

STATE OF NEVADA, *et al.*,

Defendants

I. DISCUSSION

In November 2024, Plaintiff Martel Artis was an inmate in the custody of the Clark County Detention Center (“CCDC”) who initiated this lawsuit by filing an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* on the wrong form. (ECF No. 1). On December 5, 2024, Plaintiff filed an incomplete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* because he failed to submit his jail trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period. (ECF No. 4). The Court granted Plaintiff an extension of time until February 7, 2025, to submit the missing document. (ECF No. 5). In response, Plaintiff submitted another incomplete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* which, again, was missing his jail trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period. (ECF No. 6).

On February 10, 2025, Plaintiff filed a change of address notifying the Court that he was now in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections (“NDOC”). (ECF No. 7). The Court granted Plaintiff an extension of time to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF No. 8). In response, Plaintiff filed another incomplete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* which, again, was missing his inmate trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period. (ECF No. 9). On April 7, 2025, the Court issued an order granting Plaintiff one final extension of time to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF No. 10). On May 12, 2025, Plaintiff submitted a letter requesting an extension of time to file his inmate trust fund account statement because NDOC staff was taking a long time to respond to inmate requests.

1 (ECF No. 11). The Court granted Plaintiff another extension of time until June 30, 2025.
2 (ECF No. 12).

3 Plaintiff once again files another motion for extension of time to file a complete
4 application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF No. 14). Plaintiff is still attempting to
5 obtain his “bill of costs for the previous six-month period” from prison officials but notes
6 that prison officials are voluntarily relieving themselves of duties making it harder for him
7 to get things he needs. (*Id.* at 2-3). **The Court will grant Plaintiff an extension of time**
8 **until September 22, 2025, to file his prison trust fund account statement for the**
9 **previous six-month period.** The Court notes that Plaintiff needs to request a copy of
10 his “prison trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period” from prison
11 officials and should not call the document a “bill of costs.” The Court notes that it is not
12 inclined to grant any further extensions of time in this case to file a complete application
13 to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court has directed Plaintiff to file a complete
14 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* since November 2024 and, despite numerous
15 orders to do so, Plaintiff is still struggling to file the necessary documents eight months
16 later. The Court further notes that other inmates at High Desert State Prison who are
17 initiating lawsuits are able to file a complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis*
18 without the necessity for repeated extensions of time.

19 The United States District Court for the District of Nevada must collect filing fees
20 from parties initiating civil actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The fee for filing a civil-rights
21 action is \$405, which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$55 administrative fee. See 28
22 U.S.C. § 1914(b). “Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply
23 to the court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.” Nev. Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-1. For an
24 inmate to apply for *in forma pauperis* status, the inmate must submit **all three** of the
25 following documents to the Court: (1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma**
26 **Pauperis for Inmate**, which is pages 1–3 of the Court’s approved form, that is properly
27 signed by the inmate twice on page 3; (2) a completed **Financial Certificate**, which is
28 page 4 of the Court’s approved form, that is properly signed by both the inmate and a

1 prison or jail official; and (3) a copy of the **inmate's prison or jail trust fund account**
2 **statement for the previous six-month period**. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1)–(2); Nev.
3 Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-2. *In forma pauperis* status does not relieve an inmate of his or her
4 obligation to pay the filing fee, it just means that the inmate can pay the fee in installments.
5 See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

6 **II. CONCLUSION**

7 For the foregoing reasons, it is ordered that Plaintiff has **until September 22,**
8 **2025**, to either pay the full \$405 filing fee or file a new fully complete application to proceed
9 *in forma pauperis* with all three required documents: (1) a completed application with the
10 inmate's two signatures on page 3, (2) a completed financial certificate that is signed both
11 by the inmate and the prison official, and (3) a copy of the inmate's trust fund account
12 statement for the previous six-month period.

13 Plaintiff is cautioned that this action will be subject to dismissal without prejudice if
14 Plaintiff fails to timely comply with this order. A dismissal without prejudice allows Plaintiff
15 to refile the case with the Court, under a new case number, when Plaintiff can file a
16 complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the required filing fee.

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18 DATED: July 24, 2025

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21 _____
22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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